

April 13, 2010

MINUTES OF A REGULAR MEETING OF THE TORRANCE COMMISSION ON AGING

CALL TO ORDER

The meeting was called to order on April 13, 2010 at 9:30 a.m. in the Hosler Conference Room at the Bartlett Senior Citizen Center.

ROLL CALL

Present: Commissioners Cardella, Craft, Draper, Kraemer, Robelotto* and Chairperson Kimmel-Dagostino

Absent: Commissioner Thomas

Staff: Senior Recreation Supervisor Wand

*Commissioner Robelotto arrived at 9:31 a.m.

FLAG SALUTE

Community Services Director Jones led the Pledge of Allegiance.

INSPIRATIONAL

Commissioner Cardella provided the following inspiration:

Never doubt that a small group of thoughtful, committed citizens can change the world. Indeed, it is the only thing that ever has.

Margaret Mead

Former Commissioner Griffith provided the following inspirations:

When all else fails, suspend telling God how big your problem is in favor of telling your problem how big your God is.

Unknown

For Old Age

May the light of your soul mind you.

May all your worry and anxiousness about your age

Be transfigured.

May you be given wisdom for the eyes of your soul

To see this as a time for gracious harvesting.

May you have the passion to heal what has hurt you,

And allow it to come closer and be one with you.

May you have great dignity,

Sense how free you are;

Above all, may you be given the wonderful gift

Of meeting the eternal light that is within you.

May you be blessed;

And may you find a wonderful love

In yourself for yourself.

John O'Donohue: To Bless the Space Between Us

ACCEPT AND FILE AFFIDAVIT OF AGENDA POSTING

MOTION: Commissioner Craft moved and Commissioner Kraemer seconded, to accept and file the Affidavit of Agenda Posting for its meeting of April 13, 2010. The motion carried. (Absent Commissioner Thomas)

APPROVAL OF MINUTES

MOTION: Commissioner Kraemer moved and Commissioner Craft seconded, to approve the minutes of the Commission on Aging meeting of March 9, 2010. The motion carried. (Absent Commissioner Thomas)

INTRODUCTION OF GUESTS

Community Services Director Jones

Senior Librarian Phillip Ross, City of Torrance

Former Commissioner Griffith

SENIOR CITIZENS CONCERNS

A. City Council Activities

Commissioner Kraemer reported that the City had a mid-year budget short fall of seven million dollars, 5% of the General Fund, but owing to savings in the amount of \$4 - \$5 million, the budget was in good shape for the end of the fiscal year in June.

Commissioner Kraemer reported that at the General Election on June 8, there would be a charter amendment on the ballot to try to combine the City elections with those of the Torrance Unified School District (TUSD). She stated that if the amendment were to pass, there would be a savings for both the City and TUSD.

Commissioner Kraemer reported that City Council members had travelled to Washington, DC, to try to secure federal funding for projects and that the Crenshaw Boulevard renovation was being done with federal recovery funds.

Commissioner Kraemer stated that the refuse rate increase had been deferred and sent back to committee.

Commissioner Kraemer reported that a Walmart store might open in Torrance by taking over the lease of a business that had vacated the location.

Commissioner Kraemer reported that the North Torrance library would be expanding.

Commissioner Kraemer noted that free tickets for the Coast Guard Band performances on Friday, May 14 at 1:30 p.m. and 7:30 p.m. would be available at the James Armstrong Theater on Wednesday, May 12 at 10:00 a.m.

B. Housing

Commissioner Draper stated that he had contacted the management for the apartments on Pacific Coast Highway and the Harbor Freeway and they verified that they had one bedroom studio apartments available for \$799.

Commissioner Craft reported on a foreclosure and a rental agency scam.

C. Health

Chairperson Kimmel-Dagostino noted that starting in January 2011, \$50 will be deducted from paychecks to be put into a long term care fund, unless the employee opts out.

Former Commissioner Griffith reported that the RAM Free Health Clinic will be held this year in the Sports Arena in Los Angeles from April 27 to May 3 and volunteers were needed. Chairperson Kimmel-Dagostino noted that wrist bands would be distributed to the patients to help with the scheduling.

Commissioner Kraemer reported that the Successful Aging Expo would be held at the Torrance Marriot on May 22 from 9:00 a.m. to 3:00 p.m.

D. Transportation

Chairperson Kimmel-Dagostino announced that the Torrance City buses have reminders concerning the Census on the inside of the buses.

Commissioner Kraemer stated that one of the five major projects that the City went to Washington, DC to seek funding for was the Transit Center.

E. Community Programs

Chairperson Kimmel-Dagostino announced that the Senior Arts and Crafts Fair would be at the Ken Miller Recreation Center on May 8.

Commissioner Kraemer announced that the 2010 Armed Forces Day Parade would be on May 15 and that there was a donation form for the Parade included in the City refuse bill.

Responding to a question from Commissioner Kraemer, Community Services Director Jones stated that the City had a city wide volunteer program with applications accessible through the City website. He thanked the Commissioners for their commitment to the City and stated that the Commission needed to continue to bring forward senior issues and advocate for programs threatened by actual or potential budget cuts.

Chairperson Kimmel-Dagostino stated that the Senior Disaster Plan was now linked to the City Disaster Plan on the City website.

Responding to a question from Former Commissioner Griffith, Senior Recreation Supervisor Wand stated that the Senior News is available online on the City website and that events in the newsletter are advertised well in advance to allow ample time for reservations and ticket purchase.

Responding to a question from Commissioner Cardella, Community Services Director Jones stated that the City does utilize high school student volunteers.

F. Focal Point Program

Commissioner Cardella reported the following Focal Point statistics for the month of:

March 2010

Total number of documented calls: 23	Total number of callbacks: 22
Miscellaneous calls: 75	Total number of walk-ins: 31
Total number of calls received: 98	

Of the documented calls:

48% were in regard to Housing	26% were for in home services
13% were for legal	

Commissioner Cardella also reported that Focal Point spoke to two senior groups and attended one health fair.

G. Elder Abuse/Fraud

Commissioner Kraemer stated that the Daily Breeze had reported that there was an increase in burglaries in Torrance.

Commissioner Robelotto recommended a course that she had taken from the Police Department entitled "Keep Safe" designed to protect the elderly from financial abuse and to promote internet safety.

Community Services Director Jones stated that the Community Services Department was working with the Police Department to offer additional classes on fraud protection at the Katy Geissert Library.

JOINT MEETING WITH CITY COUNCIL

Chairperson Kimmel-Dagostino reported that the date for the joint meeting was Tuesday, July 20 at 5:30 p.m.

It was decided that a general topic to bring forward at the joint meeting was affordable senior housing with specific issues of: the extension of the mobile home park space rental subsidy program, an update on a shared housing program, and data from Focal Point calls and inquiries.

Responding to a question from Chairperson Kimmel-Dagostino, Senior Recreation Supervisor Wand stated that the Commission should be prepared to finalize the joint meeting agenda at the June Commission on Aging meeting.

Chairperson Kimmel-Dagostino stated that she and Commissioner Craft would not be available for the June 8 Commission meeting and that the joint meeting agenda should be confirmed at the May Commission meeting.

There was a discussion about the procedures in place for a Commissioner who had numerous unexcused absences. Chairperson Kimmel-Dagostino stated that she had requested a letter of resignation from the Commissioner and would follow up with a deadline for the Commissioner to submit the letter of resignation.

OLDER AMERICANS AWARDS

Chairperson Kimmel-Dagostino stated that the Torrance Older Americans Award ceremony would be on May 11 at 7:00 p.m. at the City Council meeting.

Responding to a question from Chairperson Kimmel-Dagostino, Senior Recreation Supervisor Wand stated that she would email Maureen O'Donnell's bio to all of the Commissioners.

Chairperson Kimmel-Dagostino announced that the Los Angeles County Older Americans Award Program would be on May 19 at 10:30 a.m. at the Hahn Hall of Administration.

Chairperson Kimmel-Dagostino stated that Commissioner Craft would chair the Commission on Aging meeting on May 11.

ORALS/ANNOUNCEMENTS

Commissioner Craft announced that there are computer classes for seniors in Carson.

In response to a question from Commissioner Kraemer on an email she had received regarding commissioners joining other cities' council forums, Senior Recreation Supervisor Wand read from a statement from the City Attorney that stated, in part, that there could be

possible violations of the Brown Act if more than a quorum of any one commission joined the forum, even if only as part of the forum's email list.

Community Services Director Jones thanked the Commission both for the opportunity to attend the meeting and for their service to the City.

Community Services Director Jones announced that the funding plan for the cleanup work for the Wilson Park Pond would go before the City Council on April 13 and if all went as planned; the pond would reopen by July 4.

Commissioner Cardella announced that the Torrance Symphony fundraiser was May 22.

Senior Librarian Phillip Ross, City of Torrance announced that the Walteria Library had re-opened after refurbishment and that North Torrance Library was now being refurbished.

Senior Librarian Ross distributed flyers for upcoming library events and noted that the Friends of the Torrance Library hardback sale was April 23-24. He stated that the library was still committed to doing outreach programs and recruiting volunteers through the website volunteer match.

Commissioner Cardella stated that CitiCABLE was still interested in finding someone to produce senior programming.

Commissioner Craft announced that his daughter was in a toothpaste and depression drug ad as well as co-hosting a television show called "Mastering a College Education".

ADJOURNMENT

The meeting was adjourned at 11:20 a.m. to the next regular meeting on Tuesday, May 11, 2010 at 9:30 a.m. in the Hosler Conference Room at the Bartlett Senior Citizens Center.

Approved as Submitted May 11, 2010 s/ Sue Herbers, City Clerk
